



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1800 Washington Boulevard • Baltimore MD 21230

410-537-3000 • 1-800-633-6101 • www.mde.state.md.us

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Secretary

Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

April 1, 2014

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chair
Members, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Building, 2 West
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: House Bill 615 – *Coast Smart Council*

Dear Chairwoman Conway and Committee Members:

The Department has reviewed House Bill 615, *Coast Smart Council*, and would like to express our support for this legislation.

This bill establishes a Coast Smart Council in the Department of Natural Resources. The council would be required to adopt “Coast Smart” siting and design criteria for state capital projects to address the impact of sea level rise and coastal flooding. Beginning July 1, 2015, any state capital project involving the construction or reconstruction of a structure would be required to comply with the siting and design criteria established by the Council. The Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment, or their designee, is a member of the Council.

The Department supports House Bill 615. The Department was an active member of DNR’s Coast Smart Construction Working Group convened to address Governor O’Malley’s Climate Change and “Coast Smart” Construction Executive Order. This legislation is consistent with the recommendations of the working group and will codify and build on key provisions of the executive order and the working group’s recommendations regarding infrastructure siting and design guidelines for State construction. Additionally, this legislation will assist in refining Maryland’s climate change adaptation tools, one of the key focuses of the state’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan.

For these reasons the Department urges a favorable report on House Bill 615. If I can be of further assistance, please call me at (410) 260-6301 or you can reach me by email at jeffrey.fretwell@maryland.gov. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Fretwell

